Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

1.	NAME							
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	Fort Frederick	State Par	'k					
	AND/OR HISTORIC:							
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DESCRIPTION	7						
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	Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair		Deteriorated	Ruins	☐ Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	ne)			(C	heck One)
	IX Alte	red	☐ Unaltered		1	Moved	To Original Site

Built in 1756-57, Fort Frederick is a huge stone quadrangle with a bastion projecting from each corner. The curtain walls are three feet thick at the base, rise to a height of 17-1/2 feet, and are about 179 feet long. The throat of each corner bastion is about 41 feet wide, two faces are 31 feet long and the other two are each 89 feet in length. Bastion walls are 4 feet thick and each bastion was originally filled in with earth on their interior to within 4-1/2 feet of their height, so that cannon could be mounted there and infantry could also fire over the top of the bastion walls. Only the northwest bastion is now filled with earth in this manner, 50 restored to illustrate the original condition of the other 3 now empty bastions. The main gate, 10-1/2 feet wide, is located in the center of the south curtain. A short distance to the west, or left, of the gate is the hole that was knocked in the wall in 1861 so that a cannon could be utilized in the defense of the main gate.

Inside the stone foundations of three log barracks have been uncovered and stablized. On the east and west sides stood two two-story log barracks for the troops, each about 117 feet long and 18 feet wide and on the north wall, centered directly opposite to the main gate, stood the third two-story log barracks, the officers' quarters, about 96 feet long and 28 feet deep. To the right of the officers' quarters, near the northeast bastion, is the reconstructed well. These barracks were designed for a garrison of 200 but could hold 400 men if needed.

A very large portion of the fort's walls are still original. These sections have been stabilized and then the missing portions reconstructed to their original 17-1/2 foot heights over the original bases.



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☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Cen	ntury	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (II Applical	ole and Known) 1	775-1783		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as A	(ppropriate)		
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Conservation	Music	11	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Frederick is the largest and best-preserved architectural example in the Southern Colonies of an 18th-century fortress erected for frontier defense against Indians. Built in 1756-1757, as a defense against French and Indian attack, Fort Frederick was also utilized as a military prison during the War for Independence and again garrisoned during the Civil War. The fort, however, was never actually attacked during its long history.

After extensive archeological and historical research by the National Park Service, the original plans of the fort were located. In the 1930's the outside stone walls were restored and reconstructed to their original height and a part of the interior restored with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Fort Frederick State Park is owned by the State of Maryland and the public has unrestricted access to the fort.

History

On May 16, 1756, during the French and Indian War, the Maryland Legislature, at the request of Governor Horatio Sharpe, appropriated 6,000 pounds to build and maintain a fort for the purpose of providing shelter and protection to the frontier inhabitants of western Maryland settlements. By mid-August construction on Fort Frederick, so-named after the last Lord Baltimore (1731-1771), was well underway. Plans for the fort were prepared by Governor Sharpe and the frontier post was not designed to withstand cannon as it was believed that the French would not be able to bring large guns against it from the west.

Fort Frederick was garrisoned by militia companies of Maryland until the end of the French and Indian Wars. More than 700 terrified people found refuge in the fort during the Pontiac Uprising of 1763. From 1777 to March 1783, during the War for Independence, the fort served as a prisoner of war camp for captured British and German soldiers. At one time more than 1,000 prisoners were held there. The last such prisoners to be quartered at the fort were those captured at Yorktown in October 1781.



Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Fort Frederick ·

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

page 1

After the Revolution Fort Frederick was sold at public auction on September 5, 1791, and the huge fortress lay abandoned until the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities in 1861, Fort Frederick was once again summoned into action. A hole was broken in the south wall and a cannon was placed there to defend the main gate; the main mission of the fort was to guard the B&O Railroad and the C&O Canal against Confederate attacks. No significant military action occurred, however, and by the end of 1862, the fort's usefulness had ended.

The surrounding grounds of the Fort were used for agricultural purposes until 1922 when it was acquired by the State of Maryland for park purposes. By that time the old walls had decayed, but were still standing in many places more than 8 feet high, and the stone foundations of the three log barracks inside were buried under accumulations of earth.

After extensive archeological and historical research by the National Park Service, the original plans of the fort were located. With the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps the outside stone walls were restored and reconstructed to their original height and a part of the interior restored in the 1930's.



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Keeper of The National Register

1940), 340.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-V-205 Fort Frederick St. Pk.

DNR # - NONE

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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AND/OR COMMON			
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

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__RUINS
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NALTERED ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#7 Fort Frederick an 18th century garrison of the frontier is the focal point of Fort Frederick State Park. The fort has been rebuilt and is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. The fort is a rectangular stone structure with pointed bastions extending from each corner. It is constructed of local brownish limestone arranged in rough courses. The exterior walls are approximately 15 to 20 feet high and curve slightly inward as they rise. They were quite deteriorated at the early part of this century but were rebuilt by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's.

The entrance into the fort is in the southeast wall through massive wooden gates. A description of the fort in Thomas Scharf's History of Western Maryland states that one of the original iron hinges to the fort gates had been retained into the late 19th century. According to Scharf, this piece of hardware had weighed 42 pounds.

Within the walls of the fort were frame barracks. Historians at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources have done extensive research into their appearance and two barracks have been rebuilt. Except for details of finishing, the barracks would appear to be reasonably accurate facsimile of the original structures.

The foundation of the barracks were the subject of archeological research in the 1930's and again in the 1970's.

At present the fort and barracks appear to be in good to excellent condition although there is some deterioration to the masonry of the southwest wall of the fort.

J. Thomas Scharf. History of Western Maryland. Vol. II Baltimore, Md.: Regional Publishing Company. (1968) p. 1298. (originally published Philadelphia, 1882)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _1400-1499 AGRICULTURE XARCHITECTURE 1500-1599 1600-1699

1700-1799 X 800-1899

__COMMERCE __COMMUNICATIONS

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __CONSERVATION _ECONOMICS _EDUCATION ENGINEERING

XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT _INDUSTRY INVENTION

_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

_LAW MILITARY _MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY APOLITICS/GOVERNMENT _RELIGION _SCIENCE

SCULPTURE X SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN _THEATER

_TRANSPORTATION _OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1900-

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#8 Fort Frederick dates from the 1755-56 period and was built to protect the western frontier of Maryland during the French and Indian War. After the war, the fort had little military significance. It was used briefly during the American Revolution for British prisoners of war. It is said that a number of prisoners, including Hessian soldiers were placed on local farms to work. In 1790, the Maryland Legislature directed that the fort and the 150 acres around it be sold. By 1857, the fort farm belonged to Nathan Williams, a free black man who owned the property during much of its later private history. During the Civil War, the fort was again in use as a garrison for troops of the First Maryland Regiment who occupied it in 1361 and reputedly knocked a hole in the south wall to keep a gun aimed on the Potomac River. Another hole was cut in the west wall, according to Scharf's History of Western Maryland, and the west bastion was removed to make room for a barn. The fort was in deteriorated condition when acquired by the State of Maryland in The Civiliam Conservation Corps contributed to the reconstruction of the fort's stone walls and located the foundations of and researched the original barracks.

Fort Frederick is important for its association with historical archeology from the 18th century, for its architecture as an example of period construction. Dating from the third quarter of the 18th century and built to protect inhabitants of the frontier, the fort is important for its contribution to exploration and settlement of colonial Maryland. The fort has obvious military significance and is connected with three major wars. It has been listed as significant in the area of politics and government because records and histories indicate that the construction and maintenance of the fort was a frequent issue and source of disagreement between Maryland governor, Horatio Sharpe and the legislature of the colony. Social and humanitarian concerns also lend significance to the fort since it was, during times of terror a haven for local residents who would take refuge behind its walls. In the 19th century, when the fort was no longer in use, it is said to have been a religious meeting place where itinerant ministers would hold services.

Information Compiled on the history and appearance of But Frederick and 113 barracks but the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Vol. II. Baltimore, Ind.

Regional Jublishing Company, 1968. (originally published, 1882).

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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Fort Frederick State Park WA-V-205 State Route 56 Big Pool Vicinity Washington County, MD Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, Frederick Community College July 2009

Addendum

Number 7 Page 3

Fort Frederick is constructed of local brownish limestone arranged in rough courses. The walls curve slightly inward as they rise. They were quite deteriorated at the early part of this century but were rebuilt by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s.

A description of the fort in Thomas Scharf's *History of Western Maryland* states that one of the original iron hinges to the fort gates had been retained into the late 19th century. According to Scharf, this piece of hardware weighed 42 pounds.

Historians at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources have done extensive research into the fort's appearance and two barracks have been rebuilt. Except for details of finishing, the barracks appear to be reasonably accurate facsimile of the original structures. At present the fort and barracks appear to be in good to excellent condition although there is some deterioration of the masonry of the southwest wall of the fort.

Fort Frederick State Park WA-V-205 State Route 56 Big Pool Vicinity Washington County, MD Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, Frederick Community College July 2009

Addendum

Number 8 Page 4

During the Civil War, Fort Frederick was used as a garrison for troops of the First Maryland Regiment. A skirmish occurred on Christmas Day of 1861; however, no significant military action occurred, and by the end of 1862, the fort's usefulness had ended. In the 19th century, when the fort was no longer in use, it is said to have been a religious meeting place where itinerant ministers would hold services.

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, Fort Frederick and the surrounding lands were at the center of a free black family enclave headed by Nathan Williams. Williams was the son of a former slave from the area, and had purchased his wife Ammy from another local farmer. He bought the Ft. Frederick property around the late 1850s to use the crumbled, but still massive, fort walls as a farmyard, knocking a hole in the west wall, building a barn against the inside northwest corner, and planting vegetable gardens, grapevines and fruit trees within the fort. During the post-emancipation years, Williams helped establish a school on his property for local African-American children. After his death in 1884, his children continued to support the school and operate the farm. In 1899 they deeded a 1/4 acre lot for construction of a new one-room school building. The school was closed only ten years later, but the building was adapted for residential use and survives as the one-story rear wing of the Hornbaker house on the Fort grounds. Williams' descendants owned the fort until 1922, when it was acquired by the State of Maryland for park purposes. By that time the old walls had decayed, but were still standing in many places more than 8 feet high, and the stone foundations of the three log barracks inside were buried under accumulations of earth. The Civilian Conservation Corps restored the walls in the 1930s, and two of the enlisted men's barracks were reconstructed in the 1970s. The fort now operates as a living history museum.

The Hornbaker property (WA-V-206) is just north of the fort on park land. It dates from ca. 1899 and was built as "the Fort Frederick colored school house" to serve the Big Pool area. After April 1909, when the students were sent to other schools in Clear Spring and Williamsport, the property was sold and converted into a residence in 1914. The building is now a T-shaped Victorian home with a one-story section containing the original schoolroom and a two-story section with the kitchen, bathroom, and bedrooms. Much of the historic schoolroom still exists, including the room arrangement, beaded waist high wainscoting, and a wooden hat and coat rack. The property now operates under Maryland's Resident Curatorship Program.

Fort Frederick State Park WA-V-205 State Route 56 Big Pool Vicinity Washington County, MD Catoctin Center for Regional Studies, Frederick Community College July 2009

Addendum

Number 9 Page 3

Dr. Charles W. Porter, "Progress Report on Fort Frederick, SP-1, Md." (NPS Typescript, dated October 19, 1936), 7pp., maps, and photos.

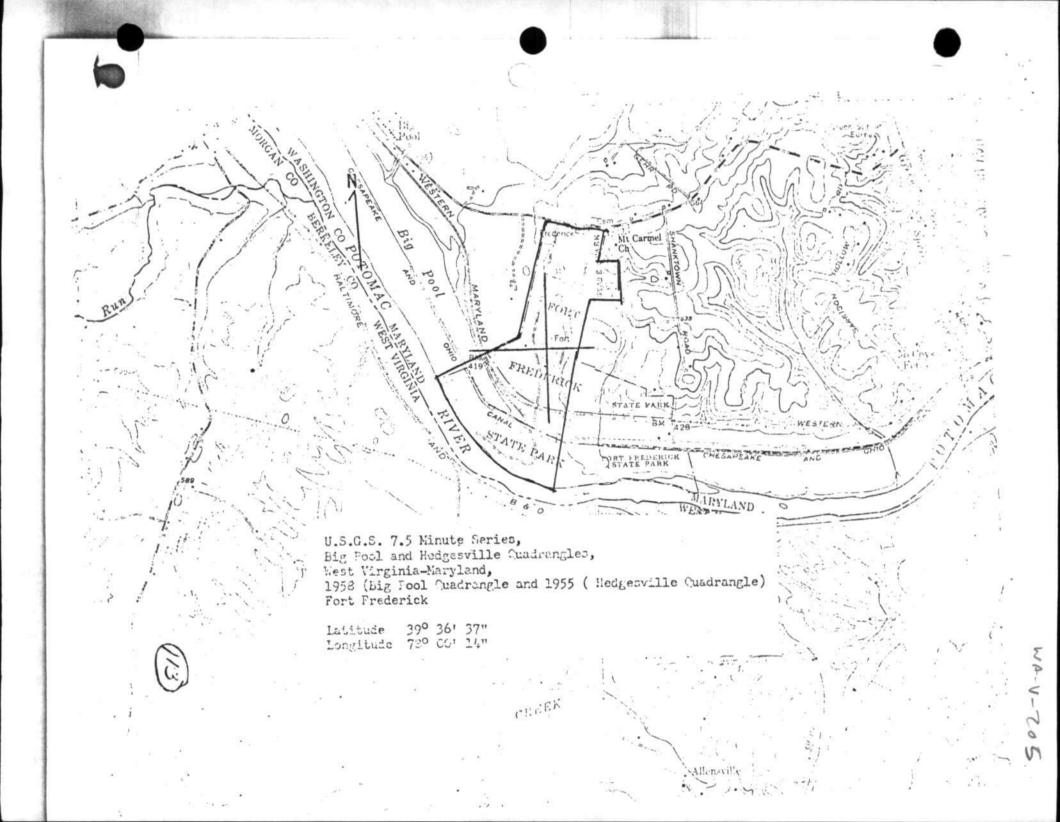
Frank B. Sarles, Jr. and Charles E. Shedd, *Colonials and Patriots* (Washington, DC, 1964), 202-203.

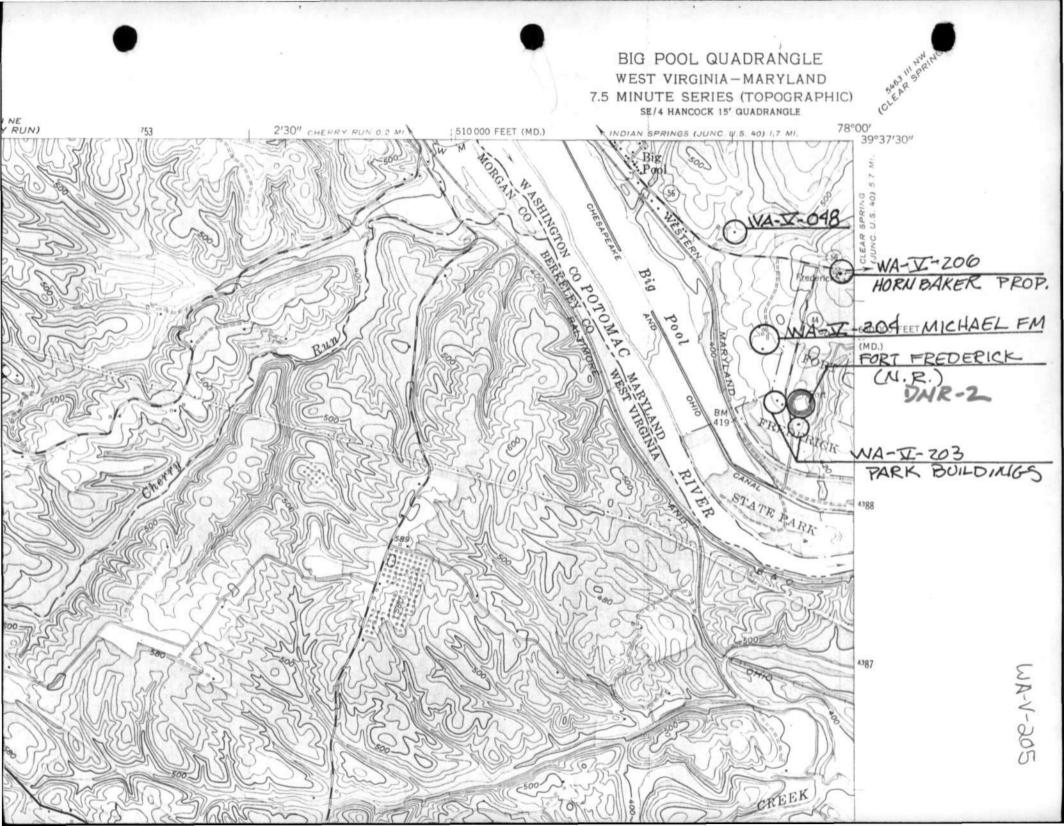
Historical American Buildings Survey no. MD-95.

"Hornbaker Property." *Maryland's Resident Curatorship Program*. Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Web. 31 July 2009. http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/land/rcs/hornbaker.asp.

J. Thomas Scharf. *History of Western Maryland*. Vol. II (Baltimore, Md.: Regional Publishing Company, 1968 [originally published in Philadelphia, 1882]), 1298.

Maryland: A Guide to the Old Line State; American Guide Series (New York, 1940), 340.

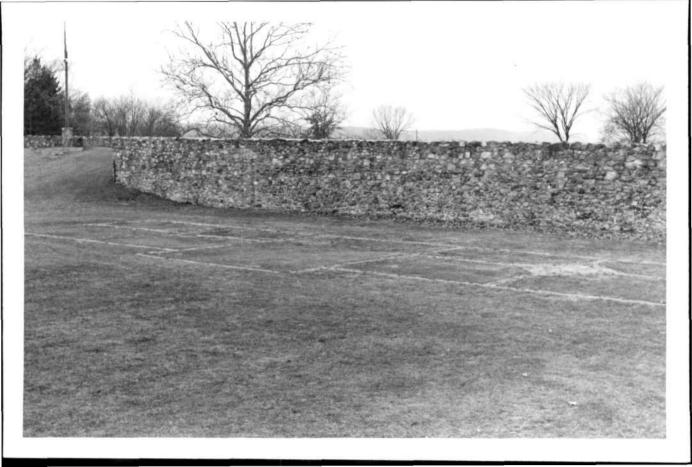






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WA-V-205
FF. FREINICK St. Ph.,
Foundations (outside walls)
S. W viewDec. 1978

Paula Stoner
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WA-V-205
FT. Frederick St. PK
FT. Interior - reconstructed bureneks
N.E. View
Dec. 1978

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WA-V-Zo5 Fort Trederick